

Project Wildlife Report

PROJECT NAME: Headwaters Restoration project

DATE: 12/11/18

TO: Project file

FROM: Mark Goldsmith, Wildlife Biologist

Project description

The purpose of the project is to reconstruct fifteen road/stream crossings on two roads that are sources of sediment in the Headwaters - South Fork Trinity River Drainage. Upgraded culverts will be sized to accommodate a 100 year flood; critical dips will be constructed at crossings with diversion potential; and hydrologic connectivity of road approaches will be reduced to the extent feasible. Sedimentation in the South Fork Trinity River sub-basin exceeds existing Water Quality Standards. This drainage is in an area of high erosion risk and is a high priority for restoration. See project file for full project description.

1. Federally-listed Threatened or Endangered species:

I checked the US Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Act list for the project area on December 11, 2018. Only one terrestrial wildlife species (northern spotted owl, or NSO) is federally listed for this area and could be potentially affected by project activities. All other species are eliminated from further consideration in this analysis (Appendix B). The potential effects I analyze regarding this species are:

- Disturbance and direct harm from noise, smoke or activity related to project implementation.
- Modification or removal of suitable habitat resulting in indirect effects to NSO.
- Effects to physical and biological features (PBFs) of designated Critical Habitat.

Disturbance:

Direct Harm/Disturbance

To avoid disturbance that could potentially affect reproductive success, a limited operating period (LOP) will be imposed to ban activities that would cause loud and continuous noise disturbance during the NSO breeding season. This Resource Protection Measure is described in Appendix A.

Habitat Modification:

Suitable habitat is present adjacent to some of the structures to be removed or installed. However, these structures are all in disturbed areas that do not support NSO habitat, and project activities are not expected to have any meaningfully measurable effect on NSO habitat suitability at or near any of the proposed work sites.

Critical Habitat Modification:

The project area is not within currently designated Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl, and the proposed action will have no effect on designated Critical Habitat for this species.

2. Forest Service Sensitive Species:

I considered a complete list of Shasta-Trinity National Forest Sensitive Species for this analysis (Appendix C). Potential effects I analyzed are modification or removal of suitable habitat, disturbance, and direct harm. The determination criterion is the potential for project activities to cause a trend toward federal listing (under the Endangered Species Act). Activities that may affect the species or its habitat, but are not likely to cause significant disruption to reproductive success on the part of individuals or patterns of reproductive success on the part of larger populations, will not affect the demographic patterns of the species and will not cause a trend toward federal listing. Although individuals may be affected, federal listing is considered at a population level.

In summary, the project work sites are in existing road beds, which are highly disturbed areas with limited value to any Forest Service Sensitive wildlife species. The NSO LOP will also substantially reduce the potential disturbance to these species. Localized and short-term effects to riparian habitats may occur during work periods. However, the project will restore riparian habitats and enhance riparian functions, and will thus benefit the Forest Service Sensitive wildlife species that rely on these habitats. As a result of these factors, project activities will not cause a trend toward federal listing for any Forest Service Sensitive species.

3. Compliance with law, regulation, policy, and the Forest Plan

This project is in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies pertaining to wildlife. As per the requirements for categorical exclusions in 40 CFR 6.204, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed activities. Potential effects to wildlife species are very minimal, and this project is in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies, including: the National Environmental Policy Act; federal Endangered Species Act; Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Forest Service Sensitive Species and Survey and Manage programs; and all aspects of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Appendix A – Wildlife Resource Protection Measures

Northern spotted owls (NSO): An LOP will be imposed from February 1 through July 31, preventing all activities (e.g., use of heavy equipment and chain saws) producing loud and continuous noise or smoke (continuous defined as two hours or more per day) that will potentially disturb this species.

Surveys can be used to generate new breeding activity results. If subsequent protocol compliant surveys show no nesting activity within 0.25 miles of proposed activities at the time of implementation or by mutual agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), LOPs may be lifted.

Appendix B – Federally Threatened/Endangered wildlife species

Species name	Status	Reason for Determination or Elimination of Consideration
Northern spotted owl (<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>)	Threatened	No effect. The project will not result in direct harm/injury or disturbance to NSO, and it will not have any meaningfully measurable effect on NSO habitat or Critical Habitat.
Gray wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>)	Endangered	No effect. The project is not within the known species range, and proposed activities are not expected to have any effect on this species.
Yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)	Threatened	No effect. The project is not within the known species range, and suitable habitat is not present.
Conservancy fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>)	Endangered	No effect. No suitable habitat.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>)	Threatened	No effect. No suitable habitat.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>)	Endangered	No effect. No suitable habitat.

Appendix C – Forest Service Sensitive wildlife species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Rationale for Determination
BIRDS		
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern goshawk	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. No meaningfully measurable effects to habitat will occur, and the NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance.
<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	Yellow rail	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow flycatcher	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. No meaningfully measurable effects to habitat will occur, and the NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. No meaningfully measurable effects to habitat will occur, and the NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance.
MAMMALS		
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. No meaningfully measurable effects to habitat will occur, and the NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance to bats.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards

Scientific Name	Common Name	Rationale for Determination
	eared bat	federal listing or a loss of viability. No meaningfully measurable effects to habitat will occur, and the NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance to bats.
<i>Gulo gulo luteus</i>	North American wolverine	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Martes Americana</i>	American marten	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. No meaningfully measurable effects to habitat will occur, and the NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance.
<i>Martes pennanti pacifica</i>	Pacific fisher	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. No meaningfully measurable effects to habitat will occur, and the NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance.
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Fringed myotis	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. No meaningfully measurable effects to habitat will occur, and the NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance to bats.
AMPHIBIANS		
<i>Hydromantes shastae</i>	Shasta salamander	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Rana aurora aurora</i>	Northern red-legged frog	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Rana boylei</i>	Foothill yellow-legged frog	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. The NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance.
<i>Rana cascadae</i>	Cascades frog	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. The NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance.
<i>Rhyacotriton variegatus</i>	Southern torrent salamander	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
REPTILES		
<i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i>	Northwestern pond turtle	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. The NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance.
TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES		
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Western bumblebee	May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability. No meaningfully measurable effects to habitat will occur, and the NSO LOP will reduce potential noise disturbance.
<i>Fluminicola seminalis</i>	Nugget pebblesnail	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Juga nigrina</i>	Black juga snail	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Lanx patelloides</i>	Kneecap lanx limpet	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Monadenia troglodytes</i>	Shasta sideband	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Rationale for Determination
<i>trogodytes</i>	snail	occur.
<i>Monadenia troglodytes wintu</i>	Wintu sideband snail	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Trilobopsis roperi</i>	Shasta chapparral snail	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Trilobopsis tehamana</i>	Tehama chapparral snail	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Vespericola pressleyi</i>	Pressley hesperian snail	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Vespericola shasta</i>	Shasta hesperian snail	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Anodonta californiensis</i>	California floater	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Juga (Calibasis) acutifilosa</i>	Scalloped juga	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.
<i>Pisidium (Cyclocalyx) ultramontanum</i>	Montane peaclam	No effect. Outside known range and not expected to occur.